



VOL. 67, NO. 9
SEPTEMBER 2007

THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✕ DETROIT, MICHIGAN

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

GOSPEL

TO

LIFE



LIFE TO GOSPEL

St. Bonaventure Fraternity
Detroit, Michigan

Celebrating 120 Years
of Secular Franciscan
presence and ministry
in metro-Detroit

Visit our website: <http://www.sfastbonaventure-detroit.org>

OUR DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

Yes, that's right! The special day of the big celebration of our 120th Jubilee is this month and we have been working very hard to make it really special, and we *are* ready!

The invitations have been sent to our members, the Ministers of all the Fraternities in the Divine Mercy Region, those Capuchins who helped us along the way, and almost 70 former members of our Fraternity who are no longer Secular Franciscans (thanks to those of you who furnished their addresses). The Holy Spirit is ready to help, the music is planned, the speakers are prepared, the remembrance holy cards are printed, the nametags are purchased, the speeches are written and Carol Nehra is ready to lead the tours of the Solanus Center, and we, members, are ready to remember those who went before us to make our Fraternity what it is today and to share our fraternal spirit – our brother-/sisterhood – with our guests.

We do, however, NEED YOUR HELP to make this a truly memorable event.

First and foremost, we need your **PRESENCE** because you are an important part of our Fraternity.

Secondly, we need **FINGER FOODS** for the social that follows the Mass and program. Come early and drop them off in the dining room.

Thirdly, we need you to be aware that our Fraternity has new nametags for each of you, as well as a **REMEMBRANCE GIFT** which we are sure you will treasure always.

Lastly, we have made it easier for you to recognize people by the color of their nametags:

GOLD is for our former Third Order directors, spiritual assistants, and friars who helped us on our faith journey;

RED with the imprinted message “**Hello, my name is**” is for members of other SFO Fraternities;

RED with no imprint is for former members who are no longer Secular Franciscans; and

BLUE is for the rest of our guests.

Of course, we want everyone to remember this occasion with gladness, so please make a special effort to make past members feel welcome, and spread that warm Franciscan joy to everyone who attends our Jubilee.

There's only one more thing that needs to be said...**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER!**

Faye Kluk Boland for the 120th Jubilee Committee

HOW IT CAME TO BE...

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap

From the beginning of her term as Minister, it became customary that Janet Bodell would come to the SFO Office on Wednesdays and Mary Hebert would accompany her. Among many other endeavors, Mary began working in the Fraternity's archives, digging up historical information, etc. Mary's enthusiasm for our Fraternity's rich history was the impetus behind the proposal to celebrate our Jubilee. The formal proposal surfaced before the Council a few months prior to our elections in 2006. The proposal came from Janet Bodell. Given the fact that a significant changeover of council members was expected with the forthcoming elections, the Council was reluctant to approve a project the responsibility for which would be on someone else's shoulders. Nonetheless, Janet pressed the issue and threw her own hat into the ring to spear-

head the project and see it through, whether or not she was re-elected minister. With that understanding, the Council gave its blessing to the project.

Janet gradually organized a Jubilee Committee comprised of: **Janet Bodell, Mary Hebert, Claire Boutain, Maxine Piaceszny, Maryanne Kristiansen, Sylvia Stanik** and **Faye Kluk Boland**. The Committee, aided by others, spent countless hours brainstorming, planning, detailing and bringing about this 120th Jubilee celebration.

Our thanks goes out to Mary Hebert for her inspiration; to Janet Bodell for her total dedication to our Fraternity; to the Committee members for their tireless efforts; and to all those who helped in any way to bring about this Jubilee celebration.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May our Lord's peace and all good be with you!

THANKSGIVING, FAITHFULNESS, AND JOY! You have been hearing these words for at least a year now since the 120th Jubilee Committee has been preparing for this exciting celebration. Those of us who are members of St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity have so much for which to be thankful. I am reminded of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem *How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...* I could relate her words to our Fraternity [and you know Fraternity includes each of *you* individually], however, there are a few key elements of our Fraternity that evoke such a need in me to be thankful, remain faithful, and which inspire such great joy in my heart.

WE ARE A LARGE FRATERNITY. I find it invigorating that we are so many brothers and sisters living the SFO vocation together. Being a large fraternity is a gift from the Lord in that we have been given "many workers for the vineyard" to do God's work in many ways. Also, we have the encouragement of so many to do our own work in fraternity and in the world – wherever that may take us. There are many talents represented here in St. Bonaventure Fraternity and these talents are being shared to make our fraternity and our fraternal work fruitful for the Kingdom! Each time we come together for Third Sunday, it has been the talents of many that make the day special in a very Franciscan way.

WE FOCUS ON GOING FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE AND LIFE TO GOSPEL. Being in this fraternity, I am uplifted to be among SFO who take the Rule seriously by living an actively contemplative life. Starting the day with prayer or even beginning each activity with prayer moves us to involve ourselves in the Fraternity's commissions [Work, Peace & Justice, Family, and Ecology], apostolates [EMB, Wednesday Healing Service Social, Soup Kitchens, Capuchin Service Center, Infirmarian, Mass for the Deceased, etc.], SFO office work, benevolent giving to make this fraternity run, support our various charities, and Council duties. This all is done after our "work in the world," family, and parish responsibilities. This is **not** about sharing ourselves, folks! This **is** about *total self-giving* like our seraphic Father Francis and our beloved Savior, Jesus! [I wish I had room here for all your names.]

WE SHARE HOLY SPACE WITH OUR CAPUCHIN BROTHERS. Being in the Solanus Casey Center with our Capuchin Brothers has been such a blessing! I grew up with two wonderful younger brothers – now I feel I have a *houseful* of wonderful brothers! These Capuchin Brothers have provided us with a great Spiritual Assistant in Br. Pat. Many fraternities now do not even have a Franciscan friar as spiritual assistant. We also have all the other terrific Capuchin friars who are *family* to us, celebrating their 150th Jubilee as we celebrate our 120th. Did you ever consider that the SFO offices are near to being directly over the tomb of Fr. Solanus? It never leaves my mind that this is holy ground...

Of course, there are many more entities that make St. Bonaventure Fraternity of Detroit special. I have only named a few! Let's all be **THANKFUL, FAITHFUL** and **JOYFUL** as we celebrate our special 120th Jubilee this Third Sunday.

Your sister in Francis and Clare,
Janet

From the Friars' Choir

PRINCIPLE OF CONVERSION

When you change the way you look at things
The things you look at change.





DECEASED MEMBER

Stanley Galup († July 25, 2007)

DECEASED RELATIVES and FRIENDS

Anne Tischuk
Sister Amadeo
Stanley Aloysius de Sousa

MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS

Irma Barlage	Joseph Marra
David Chelsea	Sophie Martin
Sophie Cisneros	Dorothy Mataragas
Natalie Grabowski	Raymond Morehead
Virgina Hale	Bob and Dolores Peckham
Nona Mary Hebert	Theresa Pfaendter
James Heymes	Maxine Piaseczny
Donna Marie Johnston	Mary Saber
Tony Lienert	Bridget Schultz
	Joseph Wisk

OTHERS REQUESTING PRAYERS

Mother and Husband of SFO General Minister,
Encarnación del Pozo

Joseph Allen
Shawn Atkinson
Robert Arczynski
Mary Ann Avery
David Barlage
Ellie Beck
Bonnie Black
Marirose Carillo
Marcella Carter and Claudia
Alice Caviani
Deven Damelio
Barbara Ertzbischoff
Beverly Falzone

Stefan Florescu
Fr. Mark Garrow
Rita Gerwolls and Family
Patricia Greenia
Angie Kay
Beverly Livingston
Lorenzo
Jean Nozewski
Scott Phillips
Theresa Rabine
Angel Richard
Martha Richardson
George Sanctorum
Tracy Stockton
Harold Walker
Hazil Wasiczuk

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Andrew Arcznski
Christopher Beattie
Francisco Biber
Tom Chmielarczyk
John Marra III
Joseph Marra, Jr.

CALL IN PRAYER REQUESTS TO:
Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335



Shalea Thomas

Age: 3 years

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Shalea loves Dora the Explorer© and riding her bike with training wheels. About St. Jude, Shalea's mom says, "Everything St. Jude does is wonderful, from the smallest thing to the largest. We couldn't be in a better place as we go through this difficult time."



Remembering Father Solanus
— A Simple Man —
Concert

September 30, 2007

5:00 PM

St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel

1780 Mt. Elliott St.

Detroit, MI 48207

Featuring:

The Father William Cunningham Memorial Choir
The Metro Catholic Gospel Choir
John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy

A new Orientation Class begins in October

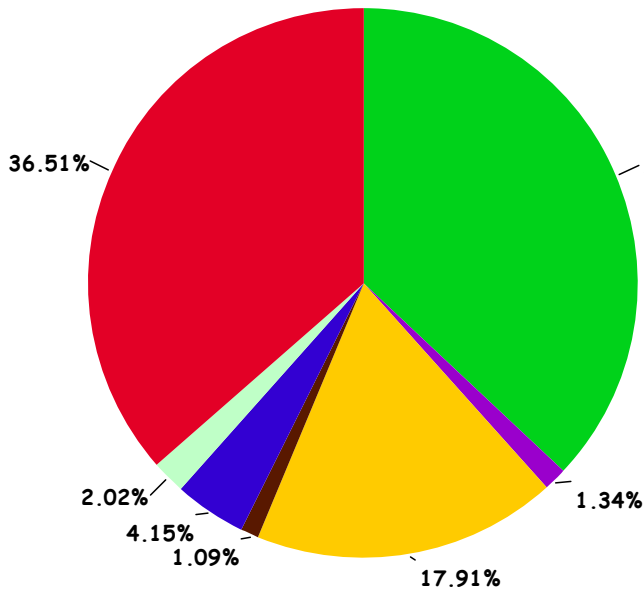
3rd Sunday at Noon

2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Solanus Casey Center

Know anyone you think might be a good Secular Franciscan? Invite them!

From the Treasurer

Revenues: \$27,238

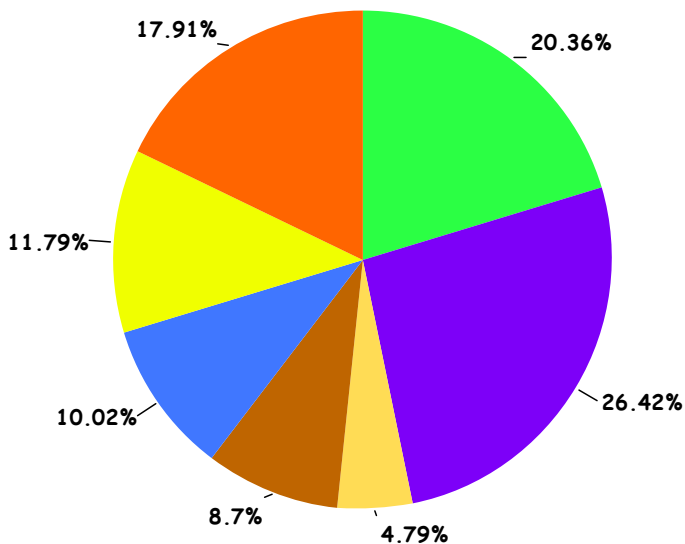


January 1 - July 31, 2007

Members' Donations	\$10,072.00
Non-member Donations	\$365.00
Contributed Rent	\$4,879.00
Religious Articles' Sales	\$298.00
Fair Share Contributions	\$1,130.00
<i>The Poverello</i> Contributions	\$550.00
Interest Income	\$9,946.00

TOTAL \$27,238.00

Expenditures - Transfers to Savings: \$27,238



January 1 - July 31, 2007

Fair Share Expenses 2007	\$5,546.00
Special Donations & Transfers	\$7,197.00
Programs, Meetings & Jubilee	\$1,306.00
Apostolic & Outreach Expenses	\$2,371.00
Guard Service	\$2,728.00
Office & Poverello Expenses	\$3,211.00
Rent Expenses	\$4,879.00

TOTAL \$27,238.00

SFO Liturgical Calendar for September



2	Bb. Severin Girault (TOR) and Companions, I and III Orders, martyrs	<i>Opt. Memorial</i>
4	St. Rose of Viterbo (1233-1251) SFO, virgin	Memorial
5	Bl. ["Mother"] Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997), virgin, religious founder *	<i>Opt. Memorial</i>
17	Stigmata of our Holy Father St. Francis (1224)	Feast
18	St. Joseph of Copertino (1603-1663) I Order, priest	Memorial
23	St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) I Order, priest	Memorial
24	Finding of the Body of St. Clare (1850)	<i>Opt. Memorial</i>
26	St. Elzear (1286-1323) and Bl. Delphina (1283-1358) SFO, spouses	Memorial

* Bl. Teresa was not a Franciscan, but is included here because we all knew of her.



September 1:

Michael O'Brien
Rita Collins
Theresa Coschino

September 2:

Maryann Bourgeau

September 5:

Clara O'Keefe
Clara Falzone

September 8:

Mary Burghardt

September 10:

Beverly Joseph

September 12:

Fred Dinverno

September 14:

Mary Schalm

September 16:

Lorraine Korte

September 18:

George Pelyak

September 20:

Francis Rettig

September 23:

Faye Boland
Thomas Petsuch

September 24:

Br. Pat McSherry
Sheryl Ann Nordstrom



Please remember to bring finger foods
to our 120th Jubilee Celebration
on September 16th.
Thanx!



St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity Detroit, Michigan

Members as of August 15, 2007

* listed according to the Date of Profession *

Agnes Perna	Oct. 3, 1937	Elizabeth Barnowsky	July 2, 1950	Dolores Peckham	Mar. 2, 1958
Michael O'Brien	Oct. 8, 1941	Frank Liccaddello	July 2, 1950	Margaret D'Hulster	July 6, 1958
Irma Barlage	June 3, 1945	Marie Fontanive	Nov. 5, 1950	Mary Burghardt	Mar. 8, 1959
Nona Mary Hebert	Oct. 5, 1945	Sylvia Stanik	Feb. 11, 1951	William Haas	Mar. 8, 1959
Mabel Michaels	Feb. 17, 1946	Helen Wardowski	June 10, 1951	Ann Wilson	July 26, 1959
Louis Peppler	June 23, 1946	Mary Schalm	June 24, 1951	Kay Balas	Nov. 20, 1959
Shirley Ivan	Oct. 6, 1946	Charlotte Heymes	July 1, 1951	Robert Snyder	Mar. 13, 1960
Mary E. Voisin	Feb. 22, 1948	Veronica Yuhase	Feb. 24, 1952	Elizabeth Housey	Mar. 27, 1960
Patricia White	July 4, 1948	Stephen Yuhase	Feb. 24, 1952	Marilyn Ricard	July 3, 1960
Elizabeth Greenia	July 4, 1948	Mary Ann Montpetit ...	Mar. 2, 1952	Elizabeth Goddeeris .	Nov. 27, 1960
Ralph Barnowski	Nov. 7, 1948	Natalie Grabowski	Mar. 2, 1952	Florence Fowler	Nov. 27, 1960
Francis Scallion	Nov. 7, 1948	Francis Rettig	Feb. 8, 1953	Lorraine Korte	Mar. 12, 1961
Joseph Wisk	Mar. 6, 1949	James Cotter	July 5, 1953	Jo Marie Nardi	Mar. 12, 1961
Paul Ivan	July 3, 1949	Hubert Montpetit	July 5, 1953	Joseph Doeren	July 9, 1961
Joseph Driessen	Oct. 21, 1949	Faye Boland	Nov. 1, 1953	Mary Gillen	July 23, 1961
Barbara Sokol	Oct. 23, 1949	Joanne Marshall	Nov. 1, 1953	Rosalie Liccaddello	Nov. 12, 1961
Clara Babala	Oct. 23, 1949	Frank Laramie	Nov. 1, 1953	Clara Kowalski	Nov. 26, 1961
Thomas Ricard	Nov. 15, 1949	Bridget Schultz	May 7, 1954	Mary Klein	Mar. 11, 1962
James Heymes	Jan. 15, 1950	Louis Joseph	Mar. 6, 1955	Rose Longo	Mar. 11, 1962
Theresa Haas	Mar. 5, 1950	Maryann Bourgeau	Nov. 6, 1955	Evelyn Olden	Mar. 25, 1962
Theresa Pfaendter	Mar. 5, 1950	Paul Bourgeau	July 1, 1956	Michael Schultz	Jan. 1, 1964
Isabelle Fleming	June 11, 1950	Irene Mecha	Mar. 2, 1958	Dolores Samulski	Mar. 4, 1964

Michael Samulski	Mar. 4, 1964	Gary Johnson	May 20, 1984	Marcella Langwerowski .	Nov. 20, 1994
Wesley Faust.....	Mar. 22, 1964	Joseph Pierce	May 19, 1985	Sandra Sherman	Nov. 20, 1994
Claire Johnson	July 12, 1964	Dora Sue Jay	May 19, 1985	Valerie Ridley	Nov. 20, 1994
Maxine Piaseczny	Nov. 22, 1964	Paul Catrow	Nov. 16, 1986	Joanne Schumacher...	Nov. 20, 1994
Dorothy Leff.....	Mar. 14, 1965	Rosemarie Kraski	Nov. 16, 1986	Teresa Westbrook-Lienert	Nov. 19, 1995
Rita Collins	Mar. 28, 1965	Daniel Marotta	Nov. 16, 1986	Robert Peckham	Mar. 28, 1996
Anthony Brodeur	Mar. 28, 1965	Janet Atkinson	Nov. 16, 1986	(*transfer date)	
Elda Scabich	Mar. 28, 1965	Daniel Atkinson	Nov. 16, 1986	Anthony Lienert	Nov. 17, 1996
Beverly Joseph	Mar. 13, 1966	Loretta Chmielarczyk .	Nov. 16, 1986	Constance Musial	Nov. 17, 1996
Beverly Hanus.....	Mar. 27, 1966	Norbert Chmielarczyk ..	Nov. 16, 1986	Caroline Hojna	Nov. 17, 1996
Kathleen Lang	Mar. 27, 1966	Elizabeth Savage	Nov. 16, 1986	Eugene Snyders	May 18, 1997
Joseph Marra.....	July 24, 1966	Joseph Boland.....	Nov. 16, 1986	Judith Vickerman	Nov. 16, 1997
Thomas Nozewski	Nov. 6, 1966	Sylvester Lafata	Nov. 15, 1987	Beverly Sapien	Nov. 16, 1997
Fred Dinverno	Nov. 13, 1966	Theresa Coschino	Nov. 15, 1987	Anna Tyler	Nov. 16, 1997
Jerrold Marsh	Nov. 13, 1966	Anne Samulak	Nov. 15, 1987	Stephen Haycox	Nov. 15, 1998
Joseph Henn	Mar. 19, 1967	Clara Falzone	Nov. 20, 1988	Mary Ruth Minnick ...	Nov. 15, 1998
Angeline Biondo	Nov. 26, 1967	Peter Aluzzo	Nov. 20, 1988	Michael Goga	Nov. 14, 1999
Thomas Petsuch	Mar. 31, 1968	Barbara Pardington ...	Nov. 20, 1988	Debra McCann	Oct. 15, 2000
Mary Poole	Mar. 3, 1970	Clair Boutain	Nov. 20, 1988	Claudia Damian	Oct. 15, 2000
Mary LaBudie	Nov. 25, 1970	Margaret Aluzzo	Nov. 20, 1988	Diane Raymond	Nov. 18, 2001
Rose Ossowski.....	Mar. 14, 1971	Josephine Lafata	Nov. 20, 1988	Sheryl Ann Nordstrom .	Nov. 18, 2001
Helen Moroz.....	Apr. 23, 1972	Stella Mordarski	Nov. 19, 1989	Ann Marie Russette ..	Nov. 18, 2001
Elnora Allen.....	Nov. 11, 1973	Patricia Vail	Nov. 19, 1989	Maryann Kummer	Nov. 18, 2001
Rocco Cesaro	Nov. 11, 1973	Ralph Marson	Nov. 19, 1989	Mary Ann Kristensen	Nov. 18, 2001
Emma Fratarcangeli...	May 19, 1974	John Gillen	Nov. 19, 1989	Joyce Kaminski	Nov. 18, 2001
Lawrencia Drobnicki .	May 10, 1975	Nancy Fanning	Nov. 19, 1989	Gertrude Beattie.....	Nov. 17, 2002
Charles Kelley	Nov. 21, 1976	Janice Litch.....	Nov. 19, 1989	Wilhelmina Adkins....	Nov. 17, 2002
Gina Rizzo	Nov. 21, 1976	Ona Harris	Nov. 18, 1990	Caroline Florescu	Nov. 16, 2003
Evelyn Bishop	May 15, 1977	Clara O'Keefe	Nov. 18, 1990	John Bodell	Nov. 16, 2003
Cecil McComb.....	May 21, 1978	Joseph Schultes	Nov. 17, 1991	Rose Gold	Nov. 16, 2003
Mary Saber	May 21, 1978	Mary Morawa	Nov. 17, 1991	Irene Modrzejewski ..	Nov. 14, 2004
Patricia Long	May 20, 1979	Norma Rea	Nov. 17, 1991	George Pelyak	Nov. 14, 2004
Anna May Jezak	May 20, 1979	Dorothy Mataragas ...	Nov. 17, 1991	Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue ..	Nov. 14, 2004
Marguerite Brannigan .	Nov. 18, 1979	Josephine Perry	Dec. 16, 1991	Frank Kraimer	Nov. 14, 2004
Esther Kelley	Nov. 18, 1979	David Chelsea	Nov. 15, 1992	Patricia Meldrum	Nov. 20, 2005
Ralph Mason	May 18, 1980	Virginia Hale	Nov. 15, 1992	Patricia Munafo	Nov. 20, 2005
Helen VanDusen	May 18, 1980	Sophie Martin	Nov. 15, 1992	Joseph Portugal	Nov. 19, 2006
Alice Vier.....	May 16, 1982	Gloria Jongueuil	Nov. 15, 1992	Chuck Sapien, Jr.	
Genevieve Ochenkowski .	May 15, 1983	Donna Marie Johnston .	Nov. 21, 1993	Christine Testa	
Mary Lou Catino	May 15, 1983	Janet Bodell	Nov. 21, 1993	Maria McNally	
Lorna Brock	May 18, 1983	Sophia Cisneros	Nov. 21, 1993	Ilene Manning	
Raymond Morehead ..	May 20, 1984	Sylvia Snigier	Nov. 21, 1993	Dennis Whelan	

Thanks be to God!

A Jubilee Reflection

by Br. Patrick McSherry, OFM Cap

Dear sisters and brothers,

The Lord give you peace!

We are all familiar with the story of the conversion of St. Francis of Assisi. In his own personal journey, Francis began where all conversion begins: with himself. He dreamed of what he himself wanted to be. His vision was limited to himself alone. A knight in shining armor! A troubadour! The herald of the great King! The dream gradually matured and the focus broadened as the Lord continued to reveal himself to Francis and called him to “something more.” In the beginning, as the dream was personal so was Francis’ outreach, mission and ministry. “Re-build my church!” And so he began ...stone by stone, hand over hand, alone. Meanwhile, his prayer life was deepening; his spirituality was intensifying. The height of his personal conversion came in an embrace and a kiss – of a leper. Interestingly, during this early period, Francis chose to wrap himself in the outward sign of a *solitary*, clothing himself in the garment of a hermit. Without a doubt, many good things were happening in Francis’ life at that point, and the Spirit was clearly “working overtime” in him. But the Franciscan Movement was not born in those early days of Francis’ personal conversion. The Franciscan Movement was not born as he knelt before the cross at San Damiano, nor in the embrace of the leper, nor in the re-building of the dilapidated chapels that dotted the Umbrian countryside.

In his *Testament*, Francis himself indicates when the “something more” was born. In his own words: when “the Lord gave me brothers.” This was a clear watershed in the life of Francis. From that time on, he always saw the call to be a brother and part of a larger brotherhood – a Fraternity – as his *primary* response to the holy Gospel. Thus was born the Franciscan Movement.

We know that in those early days of the Movement, “Fraternity” was not delineated by space and time, but by relationship. There were no local fraternities, no friaries, no street addresses. For Francis, “Brother” was not a title, but a way of relating. “Fraternity” was neither an organizational structure nor simply a group of people who shared common values, but a group of committed Chris-

tians bonded to each other to give witness to the Gospel not only as individuals, but precisely *as a group*. The journey for each individual and for the group was marked by the movement from gospel to life and life to gospel, but what Francis began – by God’s inspiration – was not an individual, private matter.

Our identity as a Fraternity is rooted in being a group of committed Christians, **inspired by Francis’ vision of reality**, united in giving **corporate witness** to the Gospel way of life. Our fraternal life *is* our Gospel response; it *is* our leaven of evangelization in the world. Francis speaks to us today as he once did to the brothers: “Let them give witness that they are members of one family” (Later Rule, VI, 7).

Pope John Paul II gave us a powerful vision for Fraternity. In *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, he affirmed:

To make the church **the home and the school of communion**: that is the great challenge facing us in the millennium which is now beginning, if we wish to be faithful to God’s plan and respond to the world’s deepest yearnings (n. 43).

With these words, the pope offered us another image to describe our Fraternity: **a home and school of communion**. Gospel brotherhood – Fraternity – is the Franciscan incarnation of the theology of communion.

Franciscan Fraternity does not happen by accident or by simply creating structures or “juridical persons.” It requires attention and animation. The leadership role exercised by the ministers, councilors and spiritual assistants is indispensable. But even with good leaders, Fraternity does not happen automatically. Fraternity is all about relationships – and so we must focus on how we relate one to another.

Jesus did not simply want individuals to be converted, but he established a faith community – the Church – to gather into one all who believe, so that together they might accomplish Christ’s mission of bringing salvation to the world. Inspired by Jesus’ example, Francis was filled with the conviction that the Gospel would continue to grow in the world through

the medium of **a faith community with a vision** — the Fraternity. It was Fraternity that made the Franciscan Movement such a potent Gospel force within the world. Although Francis and his followers engaged in many wonderful ministries, their *primary* witness to the world was their Fraternity, demonstrating by the way *they* related to God, to each other and to others — including all of creation —, how human relationships could be redeemed and transformed. Fraternity defines the character and spirit of our Franciscan presence in the world.

Over the centuries and due to a host of diverse influences, Catholic spirituality tended to become increasingly privatized. This had a chilling effect in all areas of Church life, including within the Third Order. Over time, the Order's identity and quality of life was seriously compromised and weakened. Among the great hallmarks of the Second Vatican Council was a reclaiming of the ecclesial dimension of the Church's identity and a return to the spirit and charism of our founder, St. Francis.

After Vatican II, throughout the Franciscan world, a great deal of effort was made to give greater witness to our fraternal charism. The goal, of course, was to have vibrant Fraternities of Gospel witness. Various experiments were initiated with that goal in mind. One of them involved creating, within the context of the larger Fraternity, smaller cells and satellites. It was hoped that in smaller, more homey settings, the intensity of our Franciscan life could be re-enkindled. Many of the Fraternity's "movers and shakers" enthusiastically took on this challenge to make the Order more vibrant, more "alive." In most instances, the experience was successful. Some cells and satellites chose to become distinct Fraternities. Some remained attached to larger Fraternities.

Over the past decade or so, however, new realities have come into play which have precipitated something of a "crisis" in many Fraternities and cells. Where before it was great having 30- and 40-year-old members meet in someone's living room, now those members are in their 70s and 80s and it's not the same. Where once the cell numbered a dozen or so members, illness and death have now reduced that number to a minimum. Where once the vibrancy of youth presented an abundance of potential leaders, some of these groups have now been reduced to barely functioning entities. As with other religious groups, SFO Fraternities and cells that are facing these types of issues have to begin to seriously re-consider their future.

There is another reality, however, that presents much more of a challenge to our contemporary Franciscan way of life. The reality to which I refer are those cells (or members of cells) who have become *virtually* isolated or distanced from the larger Fraternity. I underscore the fact that this unfortunate development was *not* due to ill will or malicious intent on anyone's part; it seems to have "just happened." Nonetheless, a gradual shift took place whereby some have come to believe that their responsibilities toward the Fraternity have somehow been "transferred" to the cell, and in that sense, the cell, for all intents and purposes, has replaced the Fraternity. A further consequence is that some of our members believe that attendance at cell meetings — i.e., the fostering of relationships with only a fraction of our Fraternity — somehow exempts them from or substitutes for fostering relationships with the other members of the Fraternity. Speaking from my personal experience over the past three years as your spiritual assistant, there are still some active members of our Fraternity whom I have never met; there are others whom I have met maybe once or twice a year, at best. If that's true for me, it is also true for anyone who joined our Fraternity over the past three years, at least. And that is *not* a good thing. The bond of Fraternity is not meant to be a mere "technicality" or legal fiction.

Where cells continue to be vibrant, why not attend both your cell meeting as well as the 3rd Sunday meeting? In that way, you would continue to reap the benefits of the small group experience, while at the same time foster fraternal bonds with all the other members of the Fraternity. Where the cell's life is less than vibrant, perhaps the time has come for the cell members to reconsider its existence. As with other realities in life, sometimes a good thing isn't always meant to last "forever."

I think we all recognize that the SFO, like other religious groups in North America, is facing a vocational "crisis," a situation heightened by the ageing of our members. The vocational reality is a sign of the times which summons us to give priority to Fraternity. We must create a renewed and vital fraternal presence here in metro-Detroit. Over the past three years, our Fraternity has begun some new initiatives precisely with that in mind. Gospel conversion is at the very heart of our initial and continuing formation programs. Our formation programs are concerned not only with the growth of the individual, but with the development of a Fraternity of Gospel witness. Still, to make our Fraternity **a home and school of**

communion will require continued coordinated, consistent efforts on the part of us all.

Some of the “new tools” our Fraternity has been employing for building the sense of Fraternity among ourselves include the following:

- a) We are in the process of establishing a **stable** ministry of direct service to the poor through our Christian Service outreach at the two Capuchin Soup Kitchens and the Service Center. We desperately need a core group of people to be the mainstay of this outreach. Not only is this a service to the poor, but it also expresses well what is meant by “corporate witness.” Ministry at the Service Center is scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month. Ministry at the Conner Kitchen is on the fourth Thursday of the month. And ministry at the Meldrum Kitchen is once a month, toward the end of the month. These dates will be published in *The Poverello* calendar. Frank Kraimer is the person to contact.
- b) The format of our 3rd Sunday meetings has developed to include a guided reflection on what it means to be a Secular Franciscan in the world today while eliciting the active participation and sharing of life (not just thoughts) on the part of all our members.
- c) Without intruding on the reflections of our members, there has also been increased spiritual accompaniment through regular input by your spiritual assistant.
- d) Our initial formation program is in the process of refocusing our efforts in three aspects: formation as a process of **accompaniment**, formation as a process

of **integrating values**, and formation as a process of **discernment**.

- e) In addition, our Fraternity continues to be full of creative thinkers and planners, inspirational movers and shakers. Those gifts are being uncovered on the local as well as regional SFO levels as we explore possible areas for collaboration with other SFO Fraternities in our region.

My sisters and brothers, the continued growth of our Fraternal charism is of critical importance, now more than ever. Fraternity is not only a gift we offer to one another, it is our privileged manner of announcing the Reign of God!

One hundred and twenty years ago, our Secular Franciscan Fraternity was founded. At various critical moments of history and in many significant ways, our Fraternity gave strong **corporate witness** to Gospel values. For us, this Jubilee is much more than an anniversary. It puts us in touch with our roots. It focuses our attention on our heritage and legacy. It challenges us in light of our commitment. Let this re-dedication **of** our Fraternity be a re-committing of ourselves **to** this Fraternity. **This** is a critical moment in history; **now** is the time to give corporate witness in some significant way. As the Lord revealed to Francis what was **his** to do, so may the Lord show us what is **ours** to do. You remain in my daily prayer, and I ask the Lord to shower abundant blessings on each one of you and on your loved ones.

With love,
your brother, Pat



International Chapter in Hungary

The Twelfth General Chapter and Fifth Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order will take place between November 15 and 22, 2008, and will be celebrated in Hungary. It will bring to a close two years of celebrations commemorating the Eighth Centenary of the birth of St Elizabeth of Hungary.

This was announced to the entire Order by the General Minister, Encarnación del Pozo. Provisionally, the theme of the Chapter will be:

“The Profession of the Secular Franciscan and What it Means to Belong to the SFO.”

Mark your Calendars for the Transitus

Probably the most singularly moving Franciscan celebration is that of the **Transitus**, which commemorates the “passing” [*transitus*] or death of St. Francis of Assisi. A joint celebration involving our SFO Fraternity and the Capuchins will take place in St. Bonaventure’s Chapel at 7:00 pm on October 3, 2007. Not only are all Secular Franciscans invited [from any Fraternity], but the service is open to anyone. We can promise you a wonderful experience.

Security guards will be on duty. Please use the lighted parking lot (entrance off of Kercheval).

As part of our Transitus this year, as we did last year, the story of Lady Jacoba dei Settesoli (i.e., “Brother” Jacoba) will be woven into the retelling of Francis’ passing. As Francis lay dying, he wanted to taste once more his favorite almond treat and asked “Brother” Jacoba to bring him some. Even before word had reached her, she had already prepared the almond pastries for Francis.

We would like to enhance our Transitus celebration by distributing to all those in attendance a special almond treat in memory of Francis’ passing. We are looking for SFO members who are willing to bake some almond scones for distribution. **Norma Rea** is coordinating this aspect of the Transitus. The recipe follows. Please look it over, and if you think you would like to help prepare some almond scones, please give Norma a call (586-285-1428).

Almond Scones

(in memory of St. Francis’ passing)

Ingredients:

3 cups of all-purpose Flour
2½ tsp. Baking Powder
¾ cup Sugar
½ tsp. Salt
½ cup sweet Butter
1 Egg, beaten
1 Tbs. Almond Extract
½ cup Half-and-Half
sliced or crushed Almonds



Mix dry ingredients. Cut in butter until coarse; do not over-mix. Make a well in the flour. Beat egg, add Half-and-Half and Almond Extract. Pour into the well of the flour. Mix until it forms a round shape. Turn out on a floured surface. Roll to a thickness of about ¾ of an inch. Use a cookie-cutter or a knife to make scones. When using a knife, cut dough into pie-shaped wedges. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for approximately 18 minutes or until golden in color.

After baking, mix some powdered sugar, a little water and about ½ tsp. of Almond Extract. Brush scones with this mixture. Sprinkle with crushed or sliced almonds.

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 22 nd Sunday Ord. Time Pss. Wk. 2	3	4	5	6 Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	7	8
9 23 rd Sunday Ord. Time Pss. Wk. 3	10	11 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	12	13	14	15
16 24 th Sunday Ord. Time Pss. Wk. 4 120 TH JUBILEE & RE-DEDICATION 12:30 PM	17 STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS	18	19 SFO Council: 6:30 PM	20 St. Alfred's: 7 PM EMB Board: 10 AM	21	22
23 25 th Sunday Ord. Time Pss. Wk. 1	24 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Service Ctr. 9 am-12 noon	25	26	27 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Conner Kitchen 4 pm-6 pm	28 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith Meeting: 7 PM CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Meldrum Kitchen 10:30am-1pm	29
30 26 th Sunday Pss. Wk. 2 SFO-sponsored CONCERT: 5 PM						

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Rocco Cesaro

Peace and Justice:

Jo Marie Nardi

Maxine Piaseczny

Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

Caroline Florescu

MEETING CONTACTS

(for Locations and Times of Meetings)

Fr. Solanus Cell:

Faye Boland

St. Joan of Arc Satellite:

Frank Liccaddello

Thursday Meeting:

Raymond Morehead

Third Sunday:

Maryann Kummer

St. Alfred Cell:

Gertrude Beatty

Bl. Luchesio Cell:

Rocco Cesaro

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarians:

Jo Marie Nardi

Sylvia Stanik

Continuing Formation:

Maryann Kummer

Christian Service:

Frank Kraimer

Ecology:

Clara Falzone

Work:

Gary Johnson

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